

lands near the gulf of Thailand. A specimen, however, found from Ajmer (Rajasthan), is either an accidental introduction or it might have been wrongly labelled.

The Tripura specimen was found on the wall of a lavatory of the Chailingata Forest Bungalow, Tripura, at about 10.30 p.m. on December 18, 1972, and defended itself by adopting a threatening pose with widely gaping mouth. The specimen, on dissection, proved to be a female. It measured 336 mm in total length, 168 mm in body length, 47 mm in head length and 39 mm in its maximum width of head. There are 21 lamellae under the fourth toe and 13 supra and 11 infralabials.

It is blue slaty above, profusely spotted with brick-red and whitish blue spots. The tail has

broad, bluish and whitish bands, the latter being narrower than the former. Lower surface ashy-white, variegated with grey.

Gut-contents of the specimen were heads and appendages of hymenopterous and lepidopterous insects; elytra and wings of beetles, moths and wasps and cuticular parts of arachnids.

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ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
27, CHOWRINGHEE ROAD,
CALCUTTA 13,
July 5, 1976.

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22. DISTRIBUTIONAL RANGE OF *WAITEA BUCHANANI* VISWESWARA RAO (PISCES: GOBIIDAE) IN INDIAN WATERS

W. buchanani Visweswara Rao is known from Godavary estuary by a single specimen measuring 72 mm in total length (Visweswara Rao 1972).¹ One of us (K.V.R.R.) had the

opportunity to collect this species off Ennore (Madras) during a routine cruise of R.V. "Chota Investigator". This is the first record of it away from its type locality.

MATERIAL: One specimen 74 mm in total length (58 mm in standard length), off Ennore, Madras, 15-20 metres, sandy muddy bottom, R.V. "Chota Investigator", Otter

¹VISWESWARA RAO, V. (1972): A new fish of the family Gobiidae from Godavary estuary. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 69(1):130-133.

trawl collections, 12-ii-1975, K. V. Rama Rao Coll.

Description: D₁ 6; D₂ 1+10; A 1+9; P 17; V 5; C 14; L.I. 45; L. tr. 14.

Measurements (in mm): Total length 74, Standard length 58, Head length 21, Snout length 7, Eye diameter 4, Inter-orbital space 2, Post orbital length 12, Snout to: 1st dorsal fin 22, 2nd dorsal fin 33, anal fin 36, Pectoral fin 21, Pelvic fin 21; Height of the body 16, Width of the body 11, Length of the: base of 1st dorsal fin 13, 2nd dorsal fin 15, Anal

fin 13, Pectoral fin 18, Pelvic fin 16.

Remarks: This specimen agrees with the original description and the figure in all aspects. The specimen has been deposited in the collections of Zoological Survey of India, Madras.

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23. A NOTE ON THE SYSTEMATIC POSITION OF *CTENOTRYPAUCHEN MICROCEPHALUS* (BLEEKER) (FAM. TAENIOIDIDAE) (With two text-figures)

Hora (1924) discussed the systematic status of Bleeker's *Trypauchen microcephalus* and assigned it to *Ctenotrypauchen* Steindachner. However, there has been considerable confusion regarding its systematic status. The causes for the confusion and the up-to-date systematic position of the species are briefly discussed in this note.

Two subfamilies are recognised in the family Taenioididae, the Taenioininae and the Trypaucheninae. The separation of these subfamilies is largely based on the possession by the Trypaucheninae of a pouch-like cavity over each opercle, lacking in the Taenioininae. *Ctenotrypauchen* Steindachner is referable to the subfamily Trypaucheninae and the other genera recognised in the subfamily being *Try-*

pauchen Cuvier and Valenciennes, *Amblyotrypauchen* Hora, *Caragobius* Smith and Seale and *Trypauchenichthys* Bleeker. The members of the subfamily are all characterised by long dorsal and anal fins fully united to or closely continuous to the caudal fin, minute eyes, absent or more or less rudimentary scales, and very oblique mouth (Fig. 1).

The members of the subfamily are very difficult to distinguish based on any of the



Fig. 1. Lateral view of *Ctenotrypauchen microcephalus* (Bleeker).